

Page Denied

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

THE WASHINGTON POST

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1986 A13

Chilean Was Source in Helms Inquiry

Santiago Aide Complained to U.S. Envoy of 'Spies' Stealing Secrets

By Joanne Omang
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Chilean government official was the source for administration charges that someone in the office of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) leaked sensitive intelligence information to Chile, a State Department official said yesterday.

The Chilean complained to U.S. Ambassador Harry G. Barnes on July 16 that "spies" were stealing Chilean military secrets and, when Barnes asked what he meant, the Chilean said Helms' office had told him so, the U.S. official said.

Helms called the account "a concoction," adding yesterday, "There is no such Chilean official unless he's lying through his teeth." Barnes "would have no credibility in any court of law," Helms said.

Sources close to the event said the issue involved a classified Chilean armed forces report blaming Chilean soldiers for the burning death July 6 of a young antigovernment demonstrator.

Knowing that the United States had the report enabled the Chileans to shut down a U.S. intelligence-gathering operation that had been very productive, the sources said.

An FBI investigation into the alleged leak began July 18 at the request of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and has focused on Christopher Manion, a committee staff aide to Helms, as a possible suspect, the sources said.

Manion and Helms have denied involvement, and Helms yesterday accused "a coalition of the media, the Marxists and the State Department" of seeking to destabilize Chile through a disinformation campaign.

The existence of a written Chilean military document was first reported yesterday by National Public Radio.

According to The Washington Post's sources, the Central Intelligence Agency cited the internal study in its congressional briefings as evidence that the Chilean government knew its soldiers had doused demonstrator Rodrigo Rojas de Negri, 19, a Washington resident who was visiting his native Chile, with gasoline and set him afire in Santiago on July 2. He died four days later.

Manion was among those who received a CIA briefing on the Rojas case, but Helms did not, an intelligence community source said. Barnes heard from the indignant Chilean official "within hours" of Manion's briefing, the State Department official said.

The official stressed that that did not necessarily mean it was Manion who made contact with Santiago.

In an interview, Helms challenged the State Department to produce evidence against his office. "There is none; it's a hoax," designed to discredit him because of his firm opposition to department policies, he said.

The military report blaming Chilean soldiers may not exist either, he said, adding, "The CIA saying it doesn't make it true."

One intelligence official said CIA details of the report in its briefings "are almost a road map to how we got the information." The techniques in question had been used to monitor army support for Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, among other things, and have been closed down. "That's why we were upset," the official said.

A Chilean Embassy spokesman here reiterated Chile's position that it has received no intelligence leaks. A Chilean official noted that the affair has at least documented CIA covert-intelligence activity in Chile and said "this of course has to have an impact" on U.S.-Chilean relations.

That could include monitoring U.S. Embassy personnel, visa delays or difficulty in obtaining interviews, the official said.

In a speech yesterday in Greenville, N.C., Helms said the State Department has targeted him in part because he had revealed \$2 million in CIA aid to President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador in 1984. "I blew the whistle on them," Helms said.

Helms visited Chile the week after Rojas died and endorsed Pinochet's claim that Rojas had accidentally set himself afire with a device he had been carrying. Helms criticized Barnes for attending Rojas' funeral and defended Chile's progress toward democracy, which the State Department has been trying to accelerate.

The State Department, not for the first time, was furious at Helms, but this time one of its officials went public. Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, publicly called Helms' remarks "indefensible."

Later, Abrams "mentioned" to Sen. David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.), chairman of the intelligence committee, the department's dismay about the leaked information and the suspicion that Helms' office was involved, according to an Abrams spokesman. That led to the chairman's request for a probe.

In the interview, Helms said other committee members told him they were "indignant" that they had not been consulted about an investigation request.

He noted that Morton I. Abramowitz, director of the State Department's Bureau of Investigation and Research and familiar with intelligence activity, "doesn't like me either because I blew the whistle on him selling Taiwan down the river."

Helms has opposed Abramowitz's nomination to be assistant secretary of that bureau. Helms said,

"You have the makings of a nice little conspiracy down there [in the State Department] against a senator who has dared to call their hand about the private agenda of the bureaucracy" to undermine President Reagan's policies.

In a speech prepared for delivery today, Helms says Barnes and Abrams are working to "support the violent communist left" and have left democratic forces in Chile "high and dry."

A spokesman for Abrams reiterated U.S. praise for Barnes and support for "transition to democratic rule in Chile by the most effective means." Helms is "simply wrong" in his other charges, the spokesman said.

Controversial Methods of Helms Aides Could Backfire on Conservative Senator

By ROBERT S. GREENBERGER

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Most congressional staffers stay in the shadows and focus the spotlight on their boss. But aides to Sen. Jesse Helms never shy away from the limelight, or from controversy.

In May, Deborah DeMoss, an aide to the North Carolina Republican, blasted the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador in the newspapers when she thought he was blocking an investigation she was conducting in the region. Last November, in a highly publicized incident, two Helms aides served a subpoena to a Russian ship captain by hiding it in a carton of cigarettes they offered him. And in a move highly unusual for the gentlemanly Senate, some Helms staffers irritated other Capitol Hill aides by spreading the word that their boss might try to unseat Sen. Richard Lugar (R., Ind.) as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Now there are signs that this free-lancing by staffers may damage Sen. Helms. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into allegations that at least one Helms aide, Christopher Manion, may have been involved in passing on classified information to Chilean officials.

Disclosing such information to Chilean authorities may have seriously jeopardized a U.S. intelligence-gathering source in that country. The FBI hasn't reached any conclusions in the case, but if it were to find that Mr. Manion, Ms. DeMoss or other Helms staffers had a hand in passing on the information, it would be a severe politi-

cal blow to Sen. Helms. Even fellow conservatives would object to compromising U.S. intelligence.

Sen. Helms isn't likely to rein in his staff, though. "It's one of the ways he operates," says Norman Ornstein, a political scientist at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank. "Helms has tried to greatly expand his reach by giving the staff carte blanche."

Unlike many other lawmakers, Sen. Helms appears to have little interest in using his staff to design legislation. Rather, he hires aides who reflect his own ideological zeal. Their mission is to make a point, rather than to write bills. That isn't surprising since Sen. Helms usually is so much at odds with most of his Senate colleagues that his ability to influence specific legislation is limited.

When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee met last week to consider legislation to impose sanctions against South Africa, for instance, Sen. Helms offered an amendment that would have congratulated Pretoria's white minority government for making progress in dismantling apartheid. The proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by the committee, which subsequently approved a sanctions bill.

Like their boss, Helms aides relish campaigns against State Department officials. During her trip to El Salvador, for instance, Ms. DeMoss told a Salvadoran newspaper in an on-the-record interview that Ambassador Edwin Corr was trying to hinder her probe. "We believe that Corr wants to hide certain things," she said. Since then, Sen. Helms has led a lonely crusade to block a routine promotion for Mr. Corr.

Ms. DeMoss won't comment on the incident, except to say that Sen. Helms didn't object to what she did. Indeed, the senator did something similar last month during a trip to Chile when he publicly accused the U.S. ambassador there of trying "to undermine the efforts of the government of Chile to impede a taking of power by the Communists."

Staff advice also influenced Sen. Helms's decision to continue supporting Roberto D'Aubuisson, a dismissed army major who was a presidential candidate in El Salvador, long after many U.S. conservatives had abandoned him. Mr. D'Aubuisson, who lost the election, was accused of having ties to right-wing death squads.

Sen. Helms's aides have a long tradition of involvement in such controversies, and the lawmaker has always stuck by them. In 1979, the British government complained that two Helms aides, James Lucier and John Carbaugh, were interfering in negotiations in London to end the civil war then being fought in white-ruled Rhodesia. (Mr. Carbaugh has since left the senator's staff).

British diplomats claimed that the two staffers were there to bolster Rhodesian officials, who ultimately ceded power to what became black-ruled Zimbabwe. Sen. Helms said his aides were there because "I don't trust the State Department."

P. 46 WALL ST. JOURNAL 7 Aug.

HELMS PROBE: One possible indication of why the FBI is investigating whether Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., tipped off Chile that Washington had one of its sensitive military reports: A top Chilean official reportedly told U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes that Helms or his staff was the source of the leak. Helms says the State Department just wants to intimidate him, but people "are a heck of a lot smarter than those yo-yos in the State Department."

USA TODAY 4A 7 AUG 86

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1986 / PAGE 5A

Helms clerides probe as intimidation tactic

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Sen. Jesse Helms yesterday accused the federal government of investigating a foreign policy aide in retaliation for Mr. Helms' disclosure that the U.S. government financed a presidential candidate in El Salvador.

"Two years ago, I caught the CIA and the State Department with their hands in the cookie jar," Mr. Helms, a North Carolina Republican, said at the Farmers Warehouse tobacco market here.

"They were sending \$2 million of taxpayers' money to the president of El Salvador, and I blew the whistle on them," he said. "We spent three or four days making sure our facts were straight, and then I went on the Senate floor and said we must not do that to any country."

Administration officials Tuesday said the FBI is investigating allegations that Christopher Manion, a Latin American specialist on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, leaked U.S. intelligence information to Chilean officials.

Mr. Manion, brother of federal appeals court judge Daniel Manion, has denied allegations that he disclosed information on secret U.S. intelligence-gathering capabilities to the government of Chile.

The alleged leak involved U.S. ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, according to the officials, who demanded anonymity.

Through the network, the United States reportedly learned details of the July 6 burning death of a Chilean-born American resident at an anti-government demonstration, the officials said.

"That's nothing except the State Department trying to silence me and intimidate me. One day, they're going to learn they can't do that," Mr. Helms said.

Mr. Helms said the State Department was trying to discredit him because it doesn't like his strong stands against communism. "We can't continue down the slippery slope of

kicking our friends in the teeth," he said.

In May 1984, Mr. Helms accused the Reagan administration of using a "covert plan to funnel U.S. government funds and other assistance" to Jose Napoleon Duarte's campaign, thus buying the election for El Salvador's president.

"In other words, the State Department and the CIA bought the election for Duarte," Mr. Helms said in 1984.

A coterie of U.S. officials favored Mr. Duarte and had malice toward his challenger, Roberto d'Aubuisson, "who openly espoused the principles of the Republican Party in the U.S.," Mr. Helms said.

Mr. Helms had called for the resignation of the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Thomas R. Pickering, on grounds that the ambassador tried to advance Mr. Duarte's candidacy.

Mr. Helms said Mr. Manion was not a member of his staff but that he had recommended that Mr. Manion be hired. "Christopher Manion is one of the most honest people I have ever met. He has never shaded the truth," the senator said.

Mr. Manion works on the panel's subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs, which Mr. Helms heads.

Page Denied

WASHINGTON POST

5 August 1986

Helms, Aide Probed on Security Leak

Intelligence Panel Sought FBI Inquiry; Senator Denies Charge

By Joanne Omang
Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI, at the request of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, is investigating "a potential violation" of national security secrets by either an aide to Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) or the senator himself regarding U.S. intelligence-gathering capability in Chile, committee officials said yesterday.

A State Department spokesman quoted Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, as saying there was "no indication Helms was personally responsible for any breach of security, or even that he was aware of it, but that's why you investigate."

Two sources close to the probe said it has focused principally on Christopher Manion, Helms' aide on the Foreign Relations Committee. The sources added that Helms had not been ruled out as a suspect.

Helms heatedly denied the charge, telling reporters it was "a smear campaign" by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency. He accused Abrams of "a deliberate falsehood" in sparking the probe. Manion, the brother of Daniel A. Manion, recently confirmed as a federal appeals court judge, could not be reached for comment last night.

In a formal statement, Sens. David R. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), respectively chairman and vice chairman of the intelligence committee, said the committee had "received information that there had been a potential violation" of the law that bars disclosure of classified information held by a senator or Senate employee or officer.

Abrams' spokesman said Abrams had "mentioned" the alleged security violation to Durenberger during "a chance encounter at a social event."

Without mentioning Helms or Chile, the statement said the committee had asked the Justice De-

partment to investigate and that the results would be turned over to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. The Justice Department refused to comment.

An intelligence committee spokesman said the statement had been issued in response to a report in Sunday's New York Times about a probe involving Helms and Chile.

Sources close to the investigation said the alleged security leak involved a U.S. ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, through which officials had reportedly learned unreported details of the July 6 burning death of a Washington resident, Rodrigo Rojas, 19, in an antigovernment demonstration. Government troops have been accused of Rojas' murder.

The technology had also allowed unspecified contact with the growing opposition to President Augusto Pinochet within the Chilean armed forces, the sources said. The FBI began its inquiry July 18, the sources added.

Helms visited Chile and met with Pinochet the week after Rojas' death, taking along his wife and personal aides Deborah DeMoss, James Lucier and Clifford A. Kiracofe Jr. Manion, who was not on the trip, has traveled to Chile many times in the past. One staff member said the five-day visit was financed by the Chilean National Agriculture Society and not by U.S. taxpayers.

"None of us [on the trip], including the senator, had access to any classified information on Chile. There was no hearing, no briefing, no documents, no nothing. We had nothing to leak, period," the staff member said.

Helms made a surprise visit to the Senate press gallery yesterday to deny he had leaked anything to the Chileans. "It was Elliott Abrams" who started the probe, Helms said. "He crept up here in

the dead of night and made those charges . . . I am saying Elliott Abrams committed a deliberate falsehood, knowing it to be a lie."

Abrams' spokesman said Abrams had neither lied nor leaked anything to the news media.

Helms said the State Department and the CIA "want to silence me, they want to intimidate me, they want to harass me, and it's not going to work." He has long claimed that independent fact-finding missions by him and his staff have produced better information than diplomats or agents normally obtain, and that they feel threatened by his criticisms of their performance.

"Is it a smear campaign? Of course it is. If they can't beat you into the ground, they smear you into the ground," Helms said. "I don't know anything about any covert mission and Elliott Abrams knows that."

Intelligence sources said CIA Director William J. Casey had been angered by the reported security breach but did not want to clash directly with Helms by ordering his own investigation.

They said Secretary of State George P. Shultz had been "furious" when Helms praised Pinochet's government during his visit there and criticized U.S. Ambassador Harry G. Barnes Jr. for attending Rojas' funeral.

Abrams told a House subcommittee hearing that Helms' remarks were "indefensible" and said later that Helms was "completely isolated" in his defense of Pinochet. He had previously criticized Helms' charges that the governments of Mexico and Panama are involved in corruption and drug traffic.

Staff writers Mary Thornton and Patrick E. Tyler contributed to this report.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1986

p A-14

Aide to Helms Is Focus of Inquiry On a Disclosure of Data to Chile

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (AP) — The Justice Department investigation of a reported unauthorized disclosure of secret information to the Chilean Government is focusing on an aide to Senator Jesse Helms, Reagan Administration officials said today.

The State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency say they have evidence that Christopher Manion, brother of a newly confirmed Federal appeals judge, Daniel Manion, disclosed information received in a classified briefing, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The reported disclosure involved the United States' ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, through which officials had apparently learned details of the July 6 burning death of a Chilean-born United States resident at an anti-Government demonstration.

Mr. Manion was hired as a staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Mr. Helms's recommendation and works for the Senator on the panel's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. Mr. Helms is chairman of the subcommittee.

[ABC news reported that Mr. Manion denied being the source of the information.]

Bob Dole, the Kansas Republican who is the Senate majority leader, said today that Senator Helms had assured him "he had no information, no knowledge" about the matter.

Mr. Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, has been angered by allegations that he and his staff passed along information to the Chilean Government. He said Monday that the accusations were made by Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs. "They don't like the fact that I am opposed to their little

agenda down there, which is to sell out the friends of the United States and cozy up to the adversaries of the United States," Mr. Helms said.

A State Department spokesman, Charles Redman, denied Mr. Helms's charge, saying, "Elliott committed no falsehood."

Two other officials, who asked not to be identified, said the committee learned of the purported violation not from Mr. Abrams but from the C.I.A.

A senior State Department official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, described the disclosure as serious, but refused to comment on the nature of the information.

Helms calls leak charges against aide 'ridiculous'

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Jesse Helms yesterday said charges that one of his aides leaked classified intelligence information to the government of Chile, were "ridiculous."

Mr. Helms said he met with Christopher Manion, an aide on the Foreign Relations Committee, to discuss allegations that Mr. Manion was the subject of an FBI leak investigation.

"All I wanted to know, and I told him to look me in the eye, I said, 'Did you in any way pass along anything, to anybody in Chile, or anyone connected with Chile?'" Mr. Helms said.

"He said, 'No sir'.

"Chris has never shaded the truth with me once," said Mr. Helms, North Carolina Republican. "He

says it's ridiculous, which it is."

Mr. Manion could not be reached for comment.

Administration sources said the investigation involves the disclosure of a U.S. intelligence-gathering operation in Chile.

One official called the compromise a "serious" disclosure of intelligence methods that revealed U.S. electronic eavesdropping on Chile's military forces.

"I gave Chris only one instruction [Monday] night and I didn't need to do that," Mr. Helms told reporters. "And that was, tell the truth and don't shade it."

The North Carolina Republican repeated allegations that the leak stories were part of a CIA and State Department smear campaign.

"They figured they might get to

me through Chris Manion," Mr. Helms said. "The whole establishment, they wake up salivating, 'How can we get at ol' Helms today?'"

He said the CIA and State Department are "mad about my challenging them on their agenda."

As chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs, Mr. Helms has been an outspoken critic of State Department policies and has blocked or slowed a number of ambassadorial nominations.

Mr. Helms earlier accused Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams, one of the few senior State Department officials regarded as a political hardliner, of providing false information about the Chilean leak to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The committee asked the Justice Department to investigate the allegations.

Mr. Abrams has denied he was the source of the allegations against Mr. Helms and his committee.

Washington Times 6 AUG 86

USA TODAY 6 AUG 86 P. 4A

Helms says aide told truth

Manion looked him in the eye, denied leaking secrets

By Adell Crowe
USA TODAY

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said Tuesday his aide Christopher Manion looked him in the eye and denied passing secrets to Chile.

That was proof enough: Chris has never shaded the truth with me once."

But the Justice Department wants to know if Manion leaked how the U.S. monitors Chilean army communications.

It was through such monitoring that officials here learned of the July 6 fatal

burning of Rodrigo Rojas — a Chilean-born, Washington D.C., resident — during an anti-government protest.

Helms Tuesday called the investigation no more than a State Department attempt to get back at him.

Helms has angered the administration by befriending a succession of right wing foreign leaders, including Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, and using his influential Foreign Relations Committee post to hold up nominations.

"They figured they might get to me through Chris Manion," he said. "The whole es-

tablishment, they wake up salivating, 'How can we get at ol' Helms today?'"

Manion was unavailable for comment. But his brother Daniel Manion — who narrowly won Senate approval last month for a federal appeals court seat — said, "When all the smoke clears, it will be known that my brother didn't do anything."

Christopher Manion was not along when Helms visited Pinochet in July; an aide has said details of the meeting never were discussed with Manion.

The Justice Department



UPI

MANION: Not with Helms on July trip to Chile

refused comment, but news reports Monday, citing administration sources, said Manion was at a confidential Senate briefing at which the information was discussed.

HELMS PROBE: One possible indication of why the FBI is investigating whether Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., tipped off Chile that Washington had one of its sensitive military reports: A top Chilean official reportedly told U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes that Helms or his staff was the source of the leak. Helms says the State Department just wants to intimidate him, but people "are a heck of a lot smarter than those yo-yos in the State Department."

USA TODAY 4A 7 AUG 86

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1986 / PAGE 5A

Helms derides probe as intimidation tactic

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Sen. Jesse Helms yesterday accused the federal government of investigating a foreign policy aide in retaliation for Mr. Helms' disclosure that the U.S. government financed a presidential candidate in El Salvador.

"Two years ago, I caught the CIA and the State Department with their hands in the cookie jar," Mr. Helms, a North Carolina Republican, said at the Farmers Warehouse tobacco market here.

"They were sending \$2 million of taxpayers' money to the president of El Salvador, and I blew the whistle on them," he said. "We spent three or four days making sure our facts were straight, and then I went on the Senate floor and said we must not do that to any country."

Administration officials Tuesday said the FBI is investigating allegations that Christopher Manion, a Latin American specialist on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, leaked U.S. intelligence information to Chilean officials.

Mr. Manion, brother of federal appeals court judge Daniel Manion, has denied allegations that he disclosed information on secret U.S. intelligence-gathering capabilities to the government of Chile.

The alleged leak involved U.S. ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, according to the officials, who demanded anonymity.

Through the network, the United States reportedly learned details of the July 6 burning death of a Chilean-born American resident at an anti-government demonstration, the officials said.

"That's nothing except the State Department trying to silence me and intimidate me. One day, they're going to learn they can't do that," Mr. Helms said.

Mr. Helms said the State Department was trying to discredit him because it doesn't like his strong stands against communism. "We can't continue down the slippery slope of

kicking our friends in the teeth," he said.

In May 1984, Mr. Helms accused the Reagan administration of using a "covert plan to funnel U.S. government funds and other assistance" to Jose Napoleon Duarte's campaign, thus buying the election for El Salvador's president.

"In other words, the State Department and the CIA bought the election for Duarte," Mr. Helms said in 1984.

A coterie of U.S. officials favored Mr. Duarte and had malice toward his challenger, Roberto d'Aubuisson, "who openly espoused the principles of the Republican Party in the U.S.," Mr. Helms said.

Mr. Helms had called for the resignation of the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Thomas R. Pickering, on grounds that the ambassador tried to advance Mr. Duarte's candidacy.

Mr. Helms said Mr. Manion was not a member of his staff but that he had recommended that Mr. Manion be hired. "Christopher Manion is one of the most honest people I have ever met. He has never shaded the truth," the senator said.

Mr. Manion works on the panel's subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs, which Mr. Helms heads.

Page Denied